

## CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

ORIG: JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM *35A*

UNIT: DD/SA

EXT: 

DATE: 25 FEBRUARY 1966

*35A* *SS 22 522*  
TOP SECRET

ROUTING			
1		9	
2		10	
3		11	
4		12	
5		13	
6		14	
7		15	
8		16	
ROUTING PRIORITY	DEFERRED	PRIORITY	INITIALS
	ROUTINE	OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE	INITIALS

FROM: DIRECTOR

CONF:

INFO:

*OSA 1-20*

06259

25X1A

TO: IMMEDIATE CITE 

25X1A

25X1A

IDEALIST 

5382

FROM MR. CUNNINGHAM, ACTING

25X1A

REF: 

1. RE SECOND SENTENCE PARA 1. REF, AND THE POSSIBLE PANIC EFFECT

25X1A

THIS COULD HAVE ON  BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE AMPLIFIED TO INDICATE THAT, BASED ON INFO PRESENTLY AVAILABLE, IT APPEARS THAT *IN SOME MANNER* ARTICLE 342 WAS INADVERTENTLY OVERSTRESSED *DRY HOOKUP* IN AIR REFUELING FOLLOWING AN ~~REFUELING~~, AND AFTER BREAKING AWAY FROM THE TANKER.

2. IT ~~HAD~~ OCCURRED TO HQS THAT "STRUCTURAL FAILURE" MIGHT IMPLY ALL MANNER OF HORRORS  ADD TO OUR EXISTING BURDENS IN CONNECTION WITH EVENTUAL RESUMPTION TACKLE FLTS.

25X1A

3. IT APPEARS QUITE PROBABLE THAT WIRE SERVICES WILL PICK ACCIDENT UP IN LIGHT OF INQUIRIES ALREADY IN HANDS OF AIR FORCE HQS. WRECKAGE FELL APPROX 33 NM ON A 330 DEGREE RADIAL FROM EDWARDS TACAN IN COORDINATING OFFICERS

RELEASING OFFICER

TOP SECRET

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

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CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

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TOP SECRET

ROUTING	
1	
2	10
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8	16

PRIORITY	DEFERRED		INITIALS
	ROUTINE	OPERATIONAL	
		IMMEDIATE	

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TO

INFO

CITE

FOOT HILLS OF SIERRA NEVADAS IN RELATIVELY INACCESSABLE LOCATION.

PILOT TRACKED TO GROUND BY [REDACTED] IN T-33 CHASE AND KC-135 25X1A

TANKER. PICKED UP IN MATTER OF MINUTES BY EAFB CHOPPER AND RETURNED

TO BASE.

25X1A 4. RE [REDACTED] STATUS; SAC HAS BEEN ADVISED. BELIEVE IT UNLIKELY  
25X1A

THEY WILL RESPOND BY GROUNDING THEIR PILOTS. GENERAL LEDFORD.

[REDACTED] PRESENTLY ON SCENE AT [REDACTED]

25X1A

END OF MESSAGE

25X1A

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.  
ADM SA

COORDINATING OFFICERS

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